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offer of any ground upon which to distinguish them. Rarely (as in secs. 523, 1291) we get a brief, pleasant mention of the author's views; but when (in section 1032) we are referred to a "discussion" of the effect of fraud on the avoidance of a contract, we find only a dry statement of some decisions. The book may, therefore, be contrasted, to its disadvantage, with those which do attempt to explain the law. It is nevertheless good of its kind, and a monument of hard, conscientious, in its way fruitful labor. It is no contribution to the advancement of the law, but it ought to be of assistance to any practising lawyer.

R. W. H.

THE MARK IN EUROPE AND AMERICA. A Review of the Discussion on Early English Land Tenure. By Enoch A. Bryan, A.M., President of Vincennes University, Indiana. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1893, pp. vi, 164.

This little book, the author says in the preface, was written during a year of rest from his regular duties and while investigating the subject at Harvard University. It is an examination of the theory of the Germanic mark and of the earlier and later evidence adduced in support of that theory. The author calls attention to the fact that the advocates of State ownership of land look upon the theory of the mark as affording an historical basis for their scheme, and that it may in the future play an important part in practical politics. The review of the evidence is impartial, but President Bryan seems on the whole disposed to agree with such destructive critics as Fustel de Coulanges and Seebohm in attributing a comparatively small influence to the mark in the development of our present institutions. The book is pleasantly written in a simple style, and will put the general reader in possession of the principal facts and the different views relating to the mark. It contains an index and a list of the authorities referred to.

G. R.

COMPARATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW. An Analysis of the Administrative Systems, National and Local, of the United States, England, France, and Germany. By Frank J. Goodnow, A.M., LL.B. 2 vols. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1893. For sale by W. B. Clarke & Co.

The author has done a great service to jurists. His definition of the subject as "that part of the public law which governs the organization and action of the administrative power in the government" is sufficient to indicate its importance.

As a supplement to constitutional law, the book is very valuable for its analysis, classification, and historical summary, and not the less so from the fact that it is purely empirical rather than speculative.

Professor Goodnow has scientifically distinguished his subject from other closely related branches of the law, and points out that a recognition of this distinction would have prevented such a decision as that in the Dartmouth College Case. A chapter particularly thoughtful is that which contains an examination into the nature of the powers inherent in each department of government; but the main purpose of the book, the comparison of the administrative systems of the four countries, is what constitutes its chief merit.

C. P. H.

**ABNORMAL MAN:** being Essays on Education and Crime and Related Subjects; with Digests of Literature and a Bibliography. By Arthur MacDonald, Specialist in the Bureau of Education. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1893. 8vo, pp. 445.

This "circular of information" contains the result of a number of essays published by the author in foreign and domestic periodicals, together with a very full bibliography, covering over two hundred octavo pages. The text of the book conveys much interesting information not very well digested or arranged, and includes a number of reviews or abstracts of the principal works upon criminology. The chief value of the publication, however, lies in the bibliography, which is believed to be the first in its field, and which is certainly sufficiently complete to meet the author's aim in serving as a basis for independent study "of any phase of the subject."

E. B. A.

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**HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF BILLS AND NOTES.** Designed especially for the use of Instructors and Students in Law Schools. By Charles P. Norton, Lecturer in the Buffalo Law School. pp. iv, 376. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co., 1893.

This book is intended by Mr. Norton "for students in law schools and law offices." It contains a careful statement of the elements of the law and theory of bills and notes. The leading principles are well picked out in large-faced type, and appropriate lists of questions are put at the ends of the chapters. Its only faults are due to the rigid limits placed upon it by the author; for it does not attempt to give familiarity with the theory and practice of the law by going, even occasionally, into the intricate and doubtful or the practical questions. It is only a book for beginners, and to such it should prove serviceable.

R. W. H.

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**THE AMERICAN DIGEST ANNUAL FOR 1893.** Sept. 1, 1892, to Aug. 31, 1893. Prepared by the Editorial Staff of the National Reporter System. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co., 1893.

This digest, probably the best of its kind, appears with marvellous promptitude. The size is about the same (pp. 5715) as last year, and there are few, if any, changes in the admirable facilities for reference and cross reference.

R. W. H.